

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015

## DURSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS at the MEETING of the COUNCIL held in the Community Meeting Room at the Fire Station, Kingshill Road, Castle, Dursley at 7pm on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

### Action Summary:

9520	Town Clerk to write to Cllr Fryer about attending future meetings or supplying reports.	9527.3	Town Clerk to notify Citizens Advice Stroud & district of the approval of their grant application.
9524.2	Town Clerk to accept the quotation for the repair works to the WMRG Football Shed.	9527.4	Town Clerk to arrange meetings of Communications committee with The Front Door and 2 Commune
9526.3	Cllr Laybourne to supply a report on the Polling Station consultation.	9530.2	Town Clerk to confirm calibration/maintenance costs for the speed gun.

### PRESENT

Cllr C Nemes, Mayor  
Cllr N Grecian, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: J Ball, S Creswick, F Firth, P Hayes, J Burdge, M Laybourne, M Nicholson, B Cairns, B Marsh and S Abraham.

Also present: John Kay, Town Clerk and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk; District Councillor D Cornell.

Absent: Councillor A Lodge.

### TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 9517

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor R Blackwell-Whitehead (business); M Chappell, L Patrick, A Stennett (All personal).

### MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 9518

Councillor Ball declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.1 (i), minute item 9523 (i), as an employee of the Dursley and District Community Association.

Councillor Ball declared a personal interest in agenda item 11.2, minute item 9527.2 as council representative of Citizens Advice Stroud and District.

### REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS 9519

No requests for dispensations were received.

County Councillors' Reports

County Councillor S Lydon sent his apologies; his report had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

District Councillors Reports

Councillor Wheeler sent his apologies; his report had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting

Councillor Cornell confirmed the Local Plan had been adopted unanimously by SDC on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and that the refusal decision for Land at Hardings Drive planning application had been issued. Cllr Cornell had discussed Dursley's NDP with Anita Gambie and commented on the positive outlook and constructive approach. Cllr Cornell aims to be able to provide an update on Sheltered Housing in January following the Committee meeting to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December and offered her support for the Community Allotment project at the Vale Hospital. Cllr Cornell provided an update on the Garden Waste initiative which people can currently sign up to and will commence in February 2016.

Cllr Jane Ball highlighted the continued absence and no reporting from Cllr Fryer.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to Cllr Fryer.

Cllr Cornell left the meeting.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC 9521

There were no representations from the public.

MINUTES 9522

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 and the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were signed by the Mayor.

BUSINESS RELATING TO COUNCIL FINANCE 9523

9523.1 Council's Accounts 2015/2016

- (i) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments (Appendix A) be authorised and signed by the Mayor.

Councillor Ball abstained from the vote.

- (ii) Income received since the last Council meeting (Appendix B) was noted.

- (iii) The monthly management/budget report was noted.

9524.1 Report of the Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee

There were no matters to report however, it was noted how well the hedges had been cut this year at the WMRG and it had improved the area by opening up the view of the playing fields.

9524.2 To receive the Minutes of the Green Spaces Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes.

9524.3 Repair the football shed on the War Memorial Recreational Ground

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Green Spaces committee and award the contract for the repair of the Football Shed to Stevensons Building Contractors as per the quotation received which has been confirmed to meet the requirements of the independent structural report.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENITIES

9525

9525.1 Report of the Chairman of the Town Improvements and Amenities Committee

There were no matters to report.

9525.2 Community Long Stay Parking Consultation

The Mayor provided an update on the consultation; it has been presented to Dursley Business Inclusive group, posted on the town council face book page & website with hand delivered notices delivered to town centre businesses.

Overall the comment on the proposal has been positive from businesses, although some comment has been received on the lack of available residents parking within the town centre, particularly Long Street.

The consultation continues until the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

9525.3 Christmas Switch-On event on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The annual switch on event was deemed a success, although numbers were down due to the weather and the event finished earlier than previous years. There were negative comments received on social media due to a mixed communication, resulting on the winner of the reindeer competition not being able to carry out the switch-on. An apology has been issued by the Mayor and the office staff are in discussion with the family to arrange an alternative prize.

The Mayor gave her thanks to Cllr Abraham, Mandy Woodward and Leah Wellings for their role in organising the event.

It was noted the success of the firework display, that they should become an annual feature at future events, possibly sponsored by the local businesses and that the volunteers had done a great job organising this year's event.

PLANNING

9526

9526.1 Report of the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman had no matters to report.

9526.2 To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes.

9526.3 Stroud District Council Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2015 Consultation

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for Cllr Laybourne to share her report with council in advance of the closing date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

9526.4 S.15/0476/OUT – Littlecombe s106 Contributions

- (i) The Mayor and the Town Clerk provided an update following the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 with representatives of Stroud District Council and GCC Highway Development Management. The new road was no longer going to be signed as the through route but there was no option available to have the developer revisit the planned improvements of the Kingshill Road/Lane junction. At the current time there are no planned waiting restrictions on Lister Street or the new road through the estate but the planned improvement and change of priority at the junction near the Vale Hospital will be carried out

Councillors discussed the impact of the proposals, alternative routing and the reasons for the reduction in S106 contribution for highways improvements since the original proposal.

- (ii) The Town Clerk provided an update from the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> November with representatives of Stroud District Council and Cam Parish Council. There was agreement to work together on the approval process by the three council's, but Cam had yet to confirm the process through their committee structure and are due to consider at their next meeting of council – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. The new timescale would be, completion by the end of April 2016 with applications being issued from January 2016.

The Town Clerk has provided a list of potential projects to Stroud District Council and notified the representatives of the Community Association, Chantry Centre, Town Trust, The Tabernacle and Kingshill House of the

intention to commence the process in January and that they had been nominated as potential recipients of S106 Community Facility funding.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should represent the Town Council on the joint committee for assessing the received applications should the process be approved by Cam PC.

## POLICY AND FINANCE

9527

### 9527.1 Report by the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee

There were no matters to report.

### 9527.2 To Consider the late Revenue Grant Application for Citizens Advice Stroud & District.

Councillors commented on the good work that this organisation carries out in the local area.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the revenue grant request for 2016/17 from Citizens Advice Stroud & District, subject to budget approval at January's council meeting.

### 9527.3 To consider the recommendation made at the Town Council (Budget) meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November to reschedule the meeting of council in January

The mayor explained the need to move the council meeting in January to match deadlines for the annual budget setting process and the impact of Stroud District Council's recent decision not to award LCTS grant funding to parish/town councils in 2016/17.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to hold January's council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7pm and to cancel the scheduled meetings of Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.

### 9527.4 To agree a preferred supplier of the new website.

The Town Clerk provided a brief update on the process for obtaining quotes from potential website providers. Councillors discussed the options and raised queries relating to finance, security and resilience.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to arrange for the Communications committee to meet a representative(s) from The Front Door and 2Commune to discuss their proposals before agreeing a preferred provider at January's council meeting.

### 9527.5 Councillors' Reports

- (i) **Dursley In Bloom** (16/11/15) – Cllr Creswick commented that planting was ongoing and the AGM was being held at Jacobs House on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.
- (ii) **Dursley Business Inclusive** (18/11/15) – Councillor Abraham reported on traders feeling better about CCTV coverage/reliability and the Community parking proposal was viewed as positive and an improvement of the current arrangements with Sainsbury's.
- (iii) **Dursley Welcomes Walkers** (18/11/15) – Cllr Grecian reported plans continuing for next year's events; regional conference in the spring and the festival in October. Feedback from this year's festival currently being reviewed with shorter circular routes being established and maps soon to be available, including: Town Centre to Breakheart Quarry. The Heritage Centre, Jacobs House and local shops were good locations to have the maps available. Chris Cherry had had recent discussion in Wotton-Under-Edge about a potential Spring Walking Festival.
- (iv) **NDP** (18/11/15) – The Mayor provided an update; the individual site assessments were reviewed and the January meeting was programmed to appoint a Planning consultant to aim for a July submission to SDC.
- (v) **Employability Project** (27/11/15) – This meeting was setup to discuss the possibility of Sixth Formers from Rednock producing hanging baskets etc for Dursley In Bloom.
- (vi) **Cam & Dursley Youth Networking Group** (1/12/15) – The Vibe/Door sessions continuing to be very busy, especially during the Christmas Switch-On where over 60 young people attended over the course of the evening. Cannabis use amongst the young people is a concern and it has been suggested Drug Awareness sessions are funded after Christmas with the remainder of the PCC funding.

#### BUSINESS RELATING TO STAFF

9528

##### 9528.1 Report by the Chairman of the Staff Committee

There were no matters to report.

#### BUSINESS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS

9529

##### 9529.1 To receive a report from Council's Highway Representative

Councillor Hayes reported that there was still very little progress on highway works in Dursley. The loose cover at Silver Street has been visited but is not classed as a "safety defect", however Amey have indicated they will fix the cover to prevent the rattling and noise. The paving slabs and bollards have not yet been replaced in Castle Street and the most recent bollard struck by a vehicle has yet to be reset. The traffic lights on Kingshill Road have now been out for approximately a week.

A temporary road closure of Lower Poole Road is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 for a utility connection.

9530.1 To receive a report from Council's Police Representative

There were no matters to report.

9530.2 Hire of CCTV Equipment to Neighbouring Councils

Councillor Nicholson reported that he had been approached by Uley Parish Council regarding the use of the Town Council's speed camera and signage. The councillors discussed the benefits and disadvantages of providing use of our equipment to neighbouring councils.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to confirm calibration costs and for council to consider introducing a nominal charge and/or deposit arrangement subject to proof of the correct insurance being obtained by potential hirers of the equipment at a future meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

9530

The Clerk's report was noted.

MONTHLY AREA INSPECTIONS AND AUDIT CHECKS

9531

Details of Councillors scheduled to undertake area inspections and audit checks for November/December 2015 were noted and the current schedule to be confirmed to councillors.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.

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Town Mayor

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Date